



**United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
District of Minnesota**

**Frank J. Magill,
United States Attorney**

David Anderson, Public Affairs Specialist
(612) 664-5684; cell: (612) 730-2251

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, May 14, 2009

Last of 12 Rolling 30's Bloods gang members sentenced for distributing crack cocaine

The last of 12 members of the Rolling 30's Bloods, a south Minneapolis street gang, was sentenced today in federal court for distributing crack cocaine for the past 15 years. The 12 defendants were indicted on Aug. 22, 2007.

On May 14 in St. Paul, United States District Court Judge Donovan Frank sentenced Lamar Allen Ferguson, 23, Minneapolis, to 78 months in prison and three years of supervised release on one count of possession with intent to distribute cocaine base, commonly known as crack cocaine. Ferguson pleaded guilty on Feb. 13, 2008.

Marquise Laguan Bowie, 33, Minneapolis, was sentenced on March 24 to 175 months in prison and five years of supervised release on one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute crack cocaine. Bowie pleaded guilty on Feb. 1, 2008.

Lorenzo Teray Graham, 22, Minneapolis, was sentenced on April 6 to 160 months in prison and five years of supervised release on one count of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Graham pleaded guilty on Jan. 29, 2008.

On March 17 in St. Paul, Judge Frank sentenced Joseph Jamar Edwards, 27, Minneapolis, to 172 months in prison and five years of supervised release on one count of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Edwards pleaded guilty on Jan. 22, 2008.

Leonard Lester Slaughter III, 21, Minneapolis, was also sentenced on March 24 to 156 months in prison and five years of supervised release on one count of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Slaughter pleaded guilty on Feb. 6, 2008.

On March 9 in St. Paul, Judge Frank sentenced Lendale Henry Thomas, 30, Minneapolis, to 195 months in prison and five years of supervised release on one count of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Thomas pleaded guilty on Feb. 26, 2008.

Nathan Lamont Dixon, 35, Minneapolis, was sentenced on March 5 to 120 months in prison and five years of supervised release on one count of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Dixon pleaded guilty on Jan. 22.

Calvin James Ferguson, 25, Minneapolis, was sentenced on Jan. 28 to 120 months in prison and five years of supervised release on one count of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Ferguson pleaded guilty on Feb. 1, 2008.

Maurice Jabbar White, 32, Minneapolis, was sentenced on March 10 to 152 months in prison and five years of supervised release on one count of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. White also pleaded guilty on Feb. 1.

Obuatawan Leon Holt, 33, Minneapolis, was sentenced on April 2 to 122 months in prison and five years of supervised release on one count of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Holt pleaded guilty on Jan. 29, 2008.

Harrison Paul Hollivay, 31, Minneapolis, was sentenced on April 8 to 68 months in prison and five years of supervised release on one count of aiding and abetting possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine. Hollivay pleaded guilty on Feb. 13, 2008.

On April 3, Joe Darrell Edwards, Jr., 37, Minneapolis, was sentenced to 206 months in prison on one count of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine and one count of conspiracy to possess firearms during and in relation to a drug-trafficking crime. Edwards was convicted by Judge Frank following a non-jury trial on Sept. 8, 2008.

“We are pleased with the sentences imposed in this case,” said U.S. Attorney Frank J. Magill. “Disrupting drug trafficking enterprises operated by violent street gangs is a priority of this office. We are pleased to work with our law enforcement partners, especially the Minneapolis Police Department and the Minnesota Gang Strike Force, in helping make this neighborhood a much safer community.”

“These sentences are significant to the safety of citizens in Minneapolis,” said Valerie Wurster, deputy chief of investigations for the Minneapolis Police Department. “The ongoing collaboration and hard work of the Gang Strike Task Force and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is essential to this success. I would like to thank our federal partners, and applaud the skill and hard work of all the officers involved.”

According to court documents, the Rolling 30's Bloods gang operates within a neighborhood of south Minneapolis encompassing those blocks that are numbered in the 30's, and the gang's territory is bordered at the northern edge by Lake Street; at the southern edge by approximately 42nd Street; at the eastern edge by approximately Nicollet Avenue; and at the western edge by approximately Bloomington or Elliot avenues. The neighborhood is primarily residential with some small commercial developments.

“The primary purpose for establishing the territory of the Rolling 30's Bloods was to control

the sale of drugs within their territory to the exclusion of all others, including rival gangs,” Judge Frank wrote in his ruling following the conviction of defendant Joe Darrell Edwards, Jr. “Selling crack cocaine was a routine event and became a primary purpose and activity of the gang.”

During Edwards’ trial, four Rolling 30’s gang members testified that anyone else selling drugs in their territory would be robbed or shot, and that there was an agreement among the members to help each other prosper, specifically with relation to drug sales and loaning each other guns.

According to court testimony, the gang members would sell drugs, particularly at certain intersections within the neighborhood, in small amounts such as one or two rocks of crack cocaine at a time. The exchanges were brief hand-to-hand encounters between a customer who either walks up to or drives up to a gang member on the street.

Witnesses also testified that gang members carried smaller amounts of crack cocaine because if they were caught, they could claim to be users and not be charged with distribution.

The Court heard testimony that gang members obtained guns in a variety of ways, including by trading drugs for guns and by stealing guns. Witnesses also testified that the gang members had an agreement to have guns available to them during their drug-trafficking activities.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Minneapolis Police Department, the Minnesota Gang Strike Force, the Minnesota Department of Corrections and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys David P. Steinkamp and Steven L. Schleicher.

This case is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a comprehensive, strategic approach to reducing gun crime in America that was launched in 2001. It networks existing local programs that target gun crime and provides them with additional tools in the effort to make our streets and communities a much more safe place.